

Public Health & Society

Public health is a critical field of research and practice around the world, including in undergraduate education. Public health scholarship emphasizes protecting and improving the population health of communities — locally, nationally, and around the globe. The Public Health & Society program is a well-integrated interdisciplinary program with enriched and amplified connections between public health and foundational and theoretical issues in humanistic, biological, ecological, sociocultural, and historical perspectives on health and society. Students will learn to read critically, communicate effectively, and think broadly about the complexities of public health and its social contexts in the past, present, and future. The program emphasizes ethical training in public health science, highlighting the social determinants of health, particularly the development of a foundational understanding of how issues of equity, inclusion, and diversity influence health outcomes.

All core program courses will be co-taught by Arts & Sciences faculty alongside Public Health faculty. Students will gain access to and experience from people working across diverse communities and will blend theory and research with relevant practice.

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Faculty

Co-Chairs

Tristram R. Kidder

Edward S. and Tedi Macias Professor
PhD, Harvard University

Lindsay Stark

Professor
DrPH, Columbia University

Director of Undergraduate Studies

Tristram R. Kidder

Edward S. and Tedi Macias Professor
PhD, Harvard University

Program Faculty

Eleanor Bergquist

Senior Lecturer
PhD, Saint Louis University
MSPH, Tulane University

Diana Parra Perez

Assistant Professor
PhD, Washington University in St. Louis

E.A. Quinn

Associate Professor
PhD, Northwestern University
MPH, Northwestern University

Majors

There is currently no major in Public Health & Society.

Minors

- Public Health & Society Minor

Courses

Visit online course listings to view semester offerings for LPH LPHS.

LPH LPHS 1000 Foundations in Public Health

This course examines the foundations in public health using an equity and social justice approach emphasizing the interconnectedness of population and individual health. The course will cover the history and impact of public health, including the importance of health equity, social justice, and human rights, as well as the essential role of ethics in public health. The course will expose students to various public health professionals working on inter-professional teams to explore careers in public health, we will invite public health and community health experts from the St. Louis region as well as national and international guest speakers.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC EN: S

LPH LPHS 2000 Introduction to Public and Global Health

Welcome to Intro to Public and Global Health, a course designed to provide a comprehensive introduction to the multifaceted dimensions of public health both within the United States and internationally. Throughout this course, students will embark on a journey to understand how health has been defined within the global context, exploring the historical evolution of public and global health disciplines as well as contemporary issues within the field. Delving into the ethical landscape of global health research, programming, and policy, students will articulate human rights issues and examine approaches ensuring ethical interventions. The course will shed light on the intricate interplay of social determinants of health, unraveling their impact on well-being and the emergence of health inequities. By examining both successes and failures in global health interventions, students will gain a nuanced understanding of the challenges inherent in the field. Furthermore, the course will foster a comparative analysis of the organization, structure, and function of diverse healthcare systems across international settings. Finally, with a focus on morbidity and mortality, students will explore major causes, trends, and measures of infectious and chronic disease, as well as some underappreciated and emerging issues, providing a holistic perspective on the critical issues shaping the landscape of public and global health today. We will engage with class topics through a range of mediums, including book chapters, scientific papers, media pieces, podcasts, guest lectures from leaders in the field, and TED talks. It may be a big class, but students will have the opportunity to voice their opinions on key class topics during small, weekly discussion groups. Get ready to be captivated, challenged, and inspired - because global health has never been this thrilling!

Credit 3 units. A&S: FYO A&S IQ: SSC

LPH LPHS 3000 Public Health Theories, Models, and Frameworks

This course will provide an overview of social and behavioral science and humanistic theories and frameworks that are currently used to: 1) understand health related behaviors; and 2) guide development of interventions and policies designed to promote positive health behavior including those that prevent, reduce or eliminate major public health problems. We will also explore the history of these theories and frameworks and the cultural and artistic approaches to change health and health related behaviors. We will use an ecological framework to examine theories at multiple levels of the culture and social ecology from individual to policy level, focusing on applications that will impact health at the population level.

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC
